

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 11263 291404Z

ACTION AF-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 11263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: DANJUMA OPTS FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

1. SEPTEMBER 29 NEW NIGERIAN GAVE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO CHIEF OF STAFF DANJUMA'S SEPTEMBER 28 REMARKS AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR NIGERIAN SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICERS. DANUMA OBSERVED THAT NIGERIA'S OIL WEALTH HAD TURNED THE COUNTRY INTO SELLER'S MARKET WHERE 'ANY MANUFACTURED GARBAGE IS SOLD.' THE QUALITY OF SERVICES, ESPECIALLY TELEPHONE AND AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR WAS ALSO CRITICIZED.

2. DANUMA SAID THE QUALITY OF GOODS AND SERVICES COULD BE IMPROVED BY ELIMINATING RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES AND PROMOTING A MORE FREE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY IN NIGERIA AS IS ALREADY FOUND IN U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE.

3. COMMENT: SINCE MEDIA HERE IS USUALLY AWARE IN ARTICLES BY ACADEMICS ON NEED FOR A MORE SOCIALIZED AND CENTRALIZED ECONOMY, DANJUMA STORY IS PLEASANT REMINDER THAT SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF A FREE MARKET ECONOMY IS ALIQUOT AND WELL IN NIGERIA. IT SHOULD HELP TO EASE CURRENT FEARS AMONG ESTABLISHED AND POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTORS THAT INCREASED OR TOTAL NATIONALIZATION OF BROAD SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY ARE IN OFFING.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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